

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-028

Acreage: 10,561.68

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description

This unit of BLM land is identified as CO-060-028. The northern boundary is road 3016, 3130 and private land. The eastern boundary is Highway 149, 3003, 3038b1, 3038b and private land. The southern boundary is 3144, 3139 and private land. The western boundary is road 3014 and 3016.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel is dominated by extreme topographic features with great elevation losses and gains up to 2000 feet in some areas. Cebolla Creek runs from southeast to northwest through the parcel, but the majority of the creek is on private land. In the northern portion, Wild Cat Gulch flows from southeast to northwest. Vegetation in this area includes spruce, fir and juniper in high elevations. Sage brush can be found throughout the parcel and there are some cottonwoods in the riparian areas. Within this parcel is a 0.24 acre area of wetlands that has a medium potential to be a fen. Present human use of the land includes livestock grazing, recreation and hunting. This parcel is used during the winter months for snowmobiling. The majority of the recreation within this unit takes place in the western portion and activity in the eastern portion is very low. All of this activity results in $\pm 1,000$ visitors annually. Mining test pits are visible in this unit, mostly along open roads. Closed roads do exist within this parcel. These roads range from high to little or no visibility. About eight man-made water sources are scattered within the parcel that are intended to aid livestock.

(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

Opportunities for solitude vary depending on the location within the parcel. A portion of the eastern boundary follows Highway 149 and parts of the western boundary are along road 3014 (County Road 26). This close proximity to these roads interferes with solitude because motorized vehicle use. The interior area of the parcel offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The high topographical relief of the center area along with numerous natural drainages provides countless areas with solitude. The interior of the land allows many individuals to be in the area without being able to see one another.

Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The quality of hiking, backpacking, hunting, and wildlife viewing are impressive. Use of the land is self-directed and there are no recreational facilities in the area.

(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

A wetland area of 0.24 acres has medium potential to be a fen and could therefore provide an ecological supplemental value. This parcel contains high levels of winter elk habitat, severe winter elk habitat, mule deer winter habitat and potential sage grouse habitat. It also contains a low level of lynx habitat and medium levels of pronghorn habitat, severe mule deer habitat and occupied sage grouse habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-028

Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Check one

 X The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

John Millea

Corrie Barbour

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

Name: Brian J. George Title: Field Manager
Date: 7/31/13

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.